

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed April 17, 2007, prior to preparing this response. Currently claims 1-29 are pending in the application, wherein claims 1-4, 8-17, 19 and 22-26 have been rejected and claims 5-7, 18, 20, 21 and 27-29 have been withdrawn from consideration consequent an Examiner-induced requirement for restriction. Claims 1, 11, 13, 16, 22, 25 and 26 have been amended, claim 30 has been added, and claims 10, 12, 17 and 27-29 have been cancelled with this paper. The Specification and Abstract have also been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in Figures 2, 4, 5 and 6 of the application. No new matter has been added with these amendments. Favorable consideration of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because FIG. 8 includes reference number 232 not mentioned in the Specification. The Specification has been amended to expressly mention reference number 232 to identify the rounded tip of the guidewire of FIG. 8. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities as indicated in the Office Action. Appropriate amendments to the description have been made with this paper. Thus it is believed these objections have been overcome. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 8-10, 12-15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Quiachon et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,697,380. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. It is noted that claims 10, 12 and 17 have been cancelled without reaching the merits of the rejection of these claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

A guidewire comprising:
an elongated inner core member including a proximal section and a distal section, the distal section including a proximal portion and a distal portion;
an elongated reinforcing member having a proximal end and a distal end, the elongated reinforcing member disposed about the proximal portion of the distal section such that the distal portion of the distal section is free of the reinforcing member; and
an outer coil member having a proximal end and a distal end, the outer coil member disposed about the distal section of the core member, there being no intervening layer of material between the distal portion of the distal section and the outer member;

wherein the proximal end of the outer coil member is located proximal of the proximal end of the elongated reinforcing member.

Applicants respectfully assert that Quiachon et al. do not disclose that which is currently claimed in claim 1. For instance, Quiachon et al. fail to teach an outer coil member disposed over a distal section of a core member, wherein the proximal end of the outer coil member is located proximal of the proximal end of an elongated reinforcing member which is disposed about a proximal portion of the distal section of the core member, as currently claimed.

In formulating the rejection, it appears as though the tube 36 of Quiachon et al. is being equated with the claimed reinforcing member, and the coil 51 of Quiachon et al. is being equated with the claimed outer coil member. In looking to the Figures of Quiachon et al. (namely Figure 1), it appears as though the proximal end of the coil 51 is not located proximal of the proximal end of the tube 36. For at least this reason, Quiachon et al. fail to anticipate claim 1. Applicants assert claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 8 and 9, which depend from claim 1, are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 has been amended to recite:

A guidewire comprising:

an elongated inner core member, the core member having a proximal region and a distal region with at least a portion of the distal region including stainless steel, the distal region having a proximal section and a distal section;

an elongated reinforcing member including a nickel-titanium alloy disposed about the inner core member, the reinforcing member having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the distal end terminates proximal of the distal section of the distal region of the core member; and

an outer coil member having a proximal end and a distal end, the outer coil member disposed over the distal section of the core member and at least a portion of the reinforcing member;

wherein the proximal end of the outer coil member is located proximal of the proximal end of the reinforcing member.

Applicants respectfully assert that Quiachon et al. do not disclose that which is currently claimed in claim 13. For instance, Quiachon et al. fail to teach an outer coil member disposed over a distal section of a core member, wherein the proximal end of the outer coil member is located proximal of the proximal end of an elongated reinforcing member which is disposed about a proximal portion of the distal section of the core member, as currently claimed.

In formulating the rejection, it appears as though the tube 36 of Quiachon et al. is being equated with the claimed reinforcing member, and the coil 51 of Quiachon et al. is being equated with the claimed outer coil member. In looking to the Figures of Quiachon et al. (namely Figure 1), it appears as though the proximal end of the coil 51 is not located proximal of the proximal end of the tube 36. For at least this reason, Quiachon et al. fail to anticipate claim 13. Applicants assert claim 13 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 14, 15 and 17, which depend from claim 13, are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 16 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Quiachon et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,697,380, in view of Urick et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,666,969. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 11 depends from claim 1. As mentioned above, Quiachon et al. fail to teach each and every limitation of claim 1. Urick et al. fail to remedy the shortcomings of Quiachon et al., as discussed above. For at least this reason, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for claim 11. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 depends from claim 13. As mentioned above, Quiachon et al. fail to teach each and every limitation of claim 13. Urick et al. fail to remedy the shortcomings of Quiachon et al., as discussed above. For at least this reason, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for claim 16. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 22 has been amended to recite:

A guidewire comprising:

- an elongated inner core member including stainless steel, the inner core member including a proximal portion having a first cross-sectional area, an intermediate portion having a second cross-sectional area, wherein the second cross-sectional area is less than the first cross-sectional area, and a distal portion having a ribbon profile;

- an elongated tubular member including a nickel-titanium alloy, the tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end, the tubular member being disposed about the intermediate portion of the inner core member; and

- a coil tip including stainless steel, the coil tip extending over the distal portion of the inner core member and the tubular member;

- wherein the proximal end of the coil tip is located proximal of the proximal end of the tubular member.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited combination of Quiachon et al. and Urick et al. does not disclose each and every limitation as currently claimed in claim 22. For instance, the cited combination fails to teach a coil tip extending over a distal portion of an inner core member, wherein the proximal end of the coil tip is located proximal of the proximal end of tubular member which is disposed about an intermediate portion of the inner core member, as currently claimed.

In formulating the rejection, it appears as though the tube 36 of Quiachon et al. is being equated with the claimed reinforcing member and the coil 51 of Quiachon et al. is being equated with the claimed outer coil member. In looking to the Figures of Quiachon et al. (namely Figure 1), it appears as though the proximal end of the coil 51 is not located proximal of the proximal end of the tube 36. The teachings of Urick et al. fail to remedy the shortcomings of Quiachon et al. Applicants assert claim 22 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-25 depend from claim 22. For at least the reasons stated above regarding the allowability of claim 22, claims 23-25 are also believed allowable over the cited combination. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Quiachon et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,697,380, in view of O'Connor et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,887,235. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 3, 4 and 19 depend from one of claim 1 and 13. As mentioned above, Quiachon et al. fail to teach each and every limitation of either claim 1 or claim 13. O'Connor et al. fail to remedy the noted shortcomings of Quiachon et al. For at least this reason, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for claims 3, 4 and 19. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Quiachon et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,697,380, in view of Urick et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,666,969, and further in view of O'Connor et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,887,235. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 26 depends from claim 22. As mentioned above, the cited combination of Quiachon et al. and Urick et al. fails to teach each and every limitation of claim 22. O'Connor et al. fail to remedy the noted shortcomings of Quiachon et al. and Urick et al. For at least this

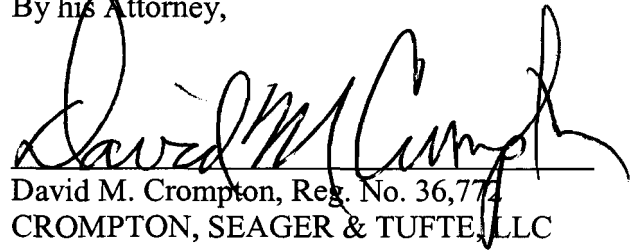
reason, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for claim 26. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Eskuri

By his Attorney,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Crompton", is written over a horizontal line.

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